

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215087

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 DEAE-00 MC-02 SY-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/EP/E:DKGUTHRIE:EMM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, EAID, EC

SUBJECT: BOATS FOR ECUADOREAN CUSTOMS POLICE

REF: A) QUITO TOAID 120; B) STATE 200623

1. SUMMARY. IN VIEW GOE'S RECENT INVESTIGATION OF COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF CUSTOMS PATROL BOATS, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE CURRENT EVALUATION OF DESIRABILITY OF SUPPLYING PATROL CRAFT UNDER NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. FY 74 NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUBMITTED REF A INCLUDED SEVEN PATROL BOATS FOR ECUADOREAN CUSTOMS POLICE VALUED AT 69,000 DOLS. SUBSEQUENT TECHNICAL STUDY CONDUCTED BY U.S. CUSTOMS UNDER AID CONTRACT RECOMMENDED THAT U.S. INITIALLY LIMIT ITS ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA TO ONE 38-FOOT PATROL BOAT PLUS AN OUTBOARD MOTOR FOR A SMALL BOAT ALREADY IN CUSTOMS POLICE INVENTORY. ESTIMATED COST OF THESE ITEMS WAS 95,000 DOLS. REQUEST COUNTRY TEAM REACTION TO THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS, IF ANY, FOR AMENDMENT OF CUSTOMS PROJECT AGREEMENT TO TAKE THEM INTO

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PAGE 02 STATE 215087

ACCOUNT.

3. REF B REPORTED GOE DISCUSSIONS WITH SWIFTSHIPS OF MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA FOR PURCHASE OF FOUR 65-FOOT PATROL BOATS VALUED AT 1 MILLION DOLS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY AND AID MISSION INDICATES GOE PURCHASE FROM SWIFTSHIPS MIGHT AMOUNT TO 6 BOATS VALUED AT 2.5 MILLION DOLS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE COUNTRY TEAM ASSESSMENT OF REQUIREMENT FOR AID-FURNISHED BOATS IN LIGHT OF POSSIBLE GOE COMMERCIAL PURCHASES. HOW LIKELY IS GOE PURCHASE FROM SWIFTSHIPS? WILL SUCH BOATS BE SATISFACTORY FOR NARCOTICS INTERDICTION? IF IN CT JUDGEMENT GOE LIKELY PROCEED WITH PURCHASE, WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO FUNDS OBLIGATED IN CUSTOMS PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR VESSEL PROCUREMENT? KISSINGER

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